

U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/863,315
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Claim 11. (Amended) An installation for applying a coating to an optical fiber, comprising:

a device that applies a coating to an optical fiber, the device comprising:

a die support;

a grid that applies the coating to the optical fiber, the grid being an integral one-piece construction with the die-support; and

an entry die and an exit die disposed in the die-support on respective opposite sides of the grid and defining a passage for the optical fiber; and

a support for the device, the support comprising means for feeding the coating liquid around the grid.

Claim 14. (Amended) A die-support including a cylindrical grid of circular inside section and a receiver on each side of the grid to receive a respective die, wherein the cylindrical grid and the receivers form an integral one-piece construction; and wherein the grid has through-holes that open into a common annular space surrounding the grid.

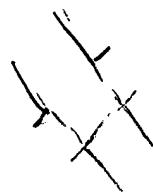
Claim 15. (Amended) The die-support of claim 14, wherein the outside diameter of the die-support on respective opposite sides of the grid is greater than the outside diameter of the grid.

Please add the following new claims:

Claim 18. (New) An optical fiber coating apparatus, comprising:
a die support having a longitudinal axis defining a path for passing an optical fiber
through the die support so as to coat the optical fiber with a coating, the die support comprising:
 a grid for applying the coating to the optical fiber;
 an upstream part defining an upstream receiving portion, the upstream part having
 an outer diameter greater than an outer diameter of the grid;
 a downstream part defining a downstream receiving portion; the downstream part
 having an outer diameter greater than the outer diameter of the grid; and
 an entry die having a through-hole and disposed in the upstream receiving
 portion; and
 an exit die having a through-hole and disposed in the downstream receiving
 portion; and
 wherein the grid, the upstream part, and the downstream part are made from the
 same piece of material as an integral one-piece construction.

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Claim 19. (New) The optical fiber coating apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the
upstream part includes a first radial wall and the downstream part includes a second radial wall,
and wherein the first radial wall opposes the second radial wall to define an annular space around
the grid.



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Claim 20. (New) The optical fiber coating apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the grid has a wall defining an interior of the grid and through holes in the wall that open into the annular space and communicate the annular space with the interior of the grid.

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Claim 21. (New) The optical fiber coating apparatus according to claim 19, wherein one end of the grid is continuous with the upstream part to define the first radial wall, and the other end of the grid is continuous with the downstream part to define the second radial wall; and wherein a side of the first radial wall facing away from the grid abuts against the entry die, and a side of the second radial wall facing away from the grid abuts against the exit die.

Claim 22. (New) The optical fiber coating apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the following relationship is met:

$$D > \sqrt{(d_i^2 + d_o^2)},$$

where D is the outside diameter of the upstream part and the downstream part, d_i is the inside diameter of the grid and d_o is the outside diameter of the grid.

Claim 23. (New) The optical fiber coating apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the following relationship is met:

$$D > 2\sqrt{(d_i^2 + d_o^2)},$$

where D is the outside diameter of the upstream part and the downstream part, d_i is the inside diameter of the grid and d_o is the outside diameter of the grid.